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REPORT
ON THE STATE OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH
IN THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF BUSHEY
URBAN DISTRICT OF CHORLEYWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT OF RICKMANSWORTH
RURAL DISTRICT OF WATFORD
IN THE COUNTY OF
HERTFORD

WILLIAM HARVEY, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1954

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of :—

*the Urban District Council of Bushey,
the Urban District Council of Chorleywood,
the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth,
and
the Rural District Council of Watford.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the state of the Public Health, and, the Reports by the Inspectors on the Sanitary Conditions, in the Districts, during the year 1954.

The general health was very good. The Sanitary services were maintained at a satisfactory level in spite of temporary difficulties owing to the shortage of labour. The standard of housing in the Districts is rising, and some excellent work was done by the Inspectors in connection with unfit houses, although the full results of this will not be apparent until its development is recorded in subsequent reports.

The statistical data in the reports are based, where necessary, on the Registrar General's estimates of the mid-year populations of the Districts. These have been compared with those for the previous year in the table given below, in which the continuing development of the area is analysed.

A table giving the mid-year populations in 1954 and 1953, and the total changes due to, the natural increases, or, the excesses of births over deaths, and, the balances from inward and outward migratory movements.

			Population		Total	Natural	Migration
			1954	1953	Increase	Increase	
Bushey	...	...	17,710	16,550	1,160	67	+ 1,093
Chorleywood	...	...	4,820	4,648	172	27	+ 145
Rickmansworth	...	...	25,820	25,360	460	90	+ 370
Watford Rural	...	...	48,560	44,800	3,760	335	+ 3,425
Totals	...	...	96,910	91,358	5,552	519	+ 5,033

THE BIRTH-RATE.

There were moderate decreases in the birth-rates, except in the case of Chorleywood, where the rate was appreciably higher : with the increasing population, however, the total number of births continued to increase—the registered number of 1,365 being 30 more than in the previous year.

The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.2, which was 0.3 per 1,000 of the population, lower than the previous year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The numbers of infant deaths, during the neonatal period of four weeks after birth, and, under the age of one year (including the former) are recorded separately. It will be seen that the majority of the deaths occurred during the first period, when causes such as congenital malformations and injuries at birth have effect.

The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales last year, which was the lowest on record, was 25.5 per 1,000 related live births.

THE DEATH-RATE.

The death-rates for the Districts, as in past years, are all much lower than the general rate for England and Wales. In order to make a more accurate comparison they should be multiplied by the Comparability Factors given in each report in order to obtain figures which allow for the varying age distributions of the populations; this has the effect of reducing the rates for the Bushey and Chorleywood Districts, and of increasing them for Rickmansworth and Watford Rural, in the last case by over one quarter.

The causes of death are given in the reports under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

The deaths from Tuberculosis during recent years are shown in the table given below.

The deaths from Tuberculosis in the Bushey, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth and Watford Rural Districts from 1949 to 1954, and, in 1938 and 1939. Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases.

	Bushey		Chorleywood		Rickmansworth		Watford Rural	
	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.
1954	2	—	—	—	—	1	10	—
1953	1	1	1	—	2	—	15	1
1952	1	—	—	—	1	—	12	—
1951	3	—	—	—	2	—	13	2
1950	4	1	1	—	3	1	8	2
1949	6	2	—	—	5	—	7	1
1939	4	—	—	—	6	3	8	1
1938	2	2	1	—	5	4	2	1

The figures have not been reduced to rates, but the satisfactory reduction in the number of deaths is even more favourable if account is taken of the increases in the populations between 1939 and 1954, which were, in percentages :—Bushey, 37 ; Chorleywood, 20 ; Rickmansworth, 30 ; and, Watford Rural, 140.

In the case of the Watford Rural District further factors of major importance have to be taken into account, namely :—the large number of persons suffering from Tuberculosis who have been transferred to the area, and, the deaths from the disease in two large institutions. It is expected that this downward trend in the death rate will continue for it is now based on great advances in treatment and prevention, against the sound background of good living conditions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was remarkably low. This was expected in the case of Measles, as the previous year had been an epidemic one, with 2,224 cases, compared with 29 cases last year. The relative freedom from the disease was due to the fact that most of the susceptible children had been infected in the previous year; however, as the number of young children who were not exposed to the infection increases, so does the probability of another outbreak. There were no deaths from the disease in either year. Measles is now of a mild type, and the race is in the process of developing a natural immunity towards it. Complications of the disease are rare, and when they do occur, they can now be treated satisfactorily.

There were 95 cases of Scarlet Fever compared with 142 cases in 1953. The virulence of this disease, which was once the deadliest of the infections in childhood, has been steadily decreasing during the last eighty years, until it has now become relatively mild.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in 1953, with 597 cases; last year the number fell to 175. There were no deaths in either year. A satisfactory vaccine is now being extensively used, and, although the protection is not so complete as that which can be given against Diphtheria, it is of great value in reducing the incidence and severity of the infection. It is recommended that the immunizing treatment should be commenced about the age of three months, as the disease is more serious in infancy.

For the sixth year in succession there were no cases of Diphtheria. It is necessary that immunization should be maintained at a high level in order to maintain this satisfactory state. Immunization is simple, voluntary, and, free; so that the responsibility for the protection of a child against Diphtheria rests with the parents. About the seventh month is a suitable time for the first injection.

There were no serious food infections. The conditions under which food is stored and prepared for consumption are receiving special attention, and the standard is steadily rising.

The notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum in Bushey are related to a large maternity hospital in the district.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

There were only two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis during the year, both were of the non-paralytic type. This reflected the rate over the whole country, which was the lowest since 1948. Although it can not be expected that the incidence of the disease will remain at this low level, there is hope that means of increasing the resistance of those in the susceptible age groups will soon be found.

Poliomyelitis is a communicable disease caused by a filterable virus which has an affinity for the roots of the motor nerves; and it is the extent and degree of the inflammatory damage suffered by these nerve roots which determine the amount and permanence of

any weakness or paralysis which may develop in the muscles they supply. In the great majority of persons the nerve cells show considerable resistance to the virus and the disease appears in a mild or aborted form, perhaps no more than a short feverish attack, with little or no weakness or paralysis. In these cases there is a balance between the resistance of the body and the attacking power of the virus. Strenuous exercise and fatigue during the incubation or early stages of the disease lowers the resistance of the motor nerve cells and so increases the likelihood of more extensive and serious paralysis. Physical strain and fatigue should, therefore, be avoided if there is any suggestion of indisposition when Poliomyelitis is prevalent. The early symptoms of the disease are indefinite, but, irritability or drowsiness, with pain or stiffness in the muscles of the neck or limbs, and a rise in temperature, should be regarded with suspicion, and as an indication for rest in bed as a most important precautionary measure in treatment and isolation.

A high standard of personal hygiene is considered by most authorities to give the best protection against the virus which appears to behave to some extent like a gastro-intestinal infection. The hands should always be washed before meals and after visiting the toilet. The avoidance of overcrowded places is generally advised. Food should be protected from flies and vermin ; and sanitation, in general, should be maintained at a high level. There is no special danger in the adequately chlorinated water of a swimming pool.

The age distribution of the 7,766 cases notified in England and Wales in 1947, in percentages, was :—under 1 year, 3.8 ; 1-4 years, 26.2 ; 5-14 years, 35.1 ; 15-24 years, 18.1 ; and 25 years and over, 16.8 ; since then, there has been a tendency towards an increase of the age at onset. More than two thirds of all patients make a complete recovery from the disease, and, of the remainder, less than ten per cent are left with severe paralysis. The case mortality rate in recent years has been about five per cent.

RODENT CONTROL.

The work of the rodent control services is recorded fully in each report. This work is of considerable economic value, apart from its importance in preventing the contamination of the food supply and the conveyance of infection.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HARVEY.

Eighty-first Annual Report.
August 1955.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*BUSHEY, CHORLEYWOOD, RICKMANSWORTH,
and WATFORD RURAL*

WILLIAM HARVEY, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

BUSHEY URBAN DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector A. C. F. GISBORNE,
Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspectors' Joint Board. Certificate, Inspection of Meat
and other Foods. Civil Defence Instructors' Certificate,
Special. Falfield 1952.

Assistant (*Trainee*) D. JONES,
National Building Certificate.

CHORLEYWOOD URBAN DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector W. E. HANDS,
(and Surveyor) Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspectors' Joint Board. Certificate, Inspection of Meat
and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary F. E. JACKSON,
Inspector (and Cert. S.J.I.B., Cert. Meat and other Foods.
Asst. Surveyor)

RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector C. R. ALEXANDER,
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspectors' Joint Board. Civil Defence Instructors'
Certificate. Falfield 1951. Certificate, Inspector of
Meat and other Foods. Civil Defence Instructors'
Certificate. Falfield 1951.

Additional Sanitary W. HUMBER,
Inspectors Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

B. P. BATES,
Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert. Meat and other Foods. (*Commenced
duties 15th November, 1954.*)

WATFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Sanitary Inspector S. N. GRIGG,
Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspectors' Joint Board. Certificate, Inspection of Meat
and other Foods. A.R.P.S., Falfield 1941.

Additional Sanitary F. REEVE,
Inspectors Cert. S.I.J.B.

A. HUGHES,
Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert., Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

G. A. MAHONEY,
Cert. S.I.J.B., Cert., Inspection of Meat and other Foods.
(*Commenced duties November, 1954.*)



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BUSHEY

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area of District (land and inland water), 3,866 acres.

Highest Point—London Road at Southern boundary, 506.7ft.

Lowest Point—Near River Colne, 179.2ft.

Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied, 1st April, 1955 ; 5,111.

Rateable value at 1st April, 1955 ; £160,055.

Product (estimated) of a penny-rate, £667.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
17,710	16,550	16,520	16,060	14,930	15,220	12,880	12,930

Birth Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1947	1945	1939
12.5	13.3	12.8	15.1	15.9	14.9	20.7	14.4	13.0

(Comparability Factor, .97)

Classification of Births:

					Live Births		Still Births	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	...	110	112	2	3
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	108	109	2	3
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	2	3	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1947	1945	1939
36	27.1	4.7	37	8	31	27	43	48

Classification of Infant Deaths:

					Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
					M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	...	3	3	4	4
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	3	3	4	4
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

General Death Rate.

Vide—"The Causes of Death."

(Comparability Factor, .96)

Tuberculosis.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year :—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	11	9	—	—
Deaths	...	...	...	1	1	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1954

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M	F	M	F
					M	F	M	F				
0— ...				2								
1— ...		1		2						2		
3— ...	3	1	2									
5— ...	9	7	2	1					1	1		
10— ...	2									1		
15— ...		1										
25 and over												
TOTAL ...	14	10	4	5	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Infective		Post-infectious		M	F
							M	F	M	F		
0— ...			1									
5— ...			1									
15— ...	1		1									
45— ...	1	1										
65 and over												
TOTAL ...	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0— ...									Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	73
5— ...									Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	9	6
15— ...									Cholera ...	—	—
45— ...									Malaria ...	1	—
65 and over									Plague ...	—	—
									Relapsing Fever	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Typhus Fever...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES										1954		
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever	.	4	7	3	4	1	3	1	1	.	.	.
Whooping Cough	.	.	.	.	3	1	.	1	3	.	.	1
paralytic Ac. poliomyelitis ; non-paralytic												
Measles	.	.	3	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dysentery	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.
Smallpox												
infective Ac. encephalitis ; post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas												
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning												
Puerperal pyrexia	5	6	4	7	6	4	8	9	6	4	4	10
Ophthalmia neonat.	1	2	.	2	4	1	1	1	.	.	2	1
†Malaria (contracted abroad)	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
†Cholera	Malaria		Plague			Relapsing F.		Typhus F.				

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

1954

					Males	Females	1954	...	...	8.7
All Causes					83	72	1953	...	...	8.9
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...		1	1	1952	...	...	9.3
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...		—	—	1951	...	...	9.9
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...		—	—	1950	...	...	9.9
4	Diphtheria	...	...		—	—	1949	...	...	10.4
5	Whooping cough	...	...		—	—	1948	...	...	8.1
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...		—	—	1947	...	...	9.8
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...		—	—	1946	...	...	9.1
8	Measles	...	...		—	—	1945	...	...	10.6
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...		—	—	1944	...	...	10.2
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...			2	2	1943	...	...	11.5
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				4	—	1942	...	...	9.8
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...			—	3	1941	...	...	10.6
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...			—	3	1940	...	...	9.7
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...		5	10	1939	...	...	7.9
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...		—	—	1938	...	...	9.1
16	Diabetes	...	...		—	—	1937	...	...	9.2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system				10	12	1936	...	...	8.2
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...		14	8	1935	...	...	9.5
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...			2	2	1934	...	...	8.6
20	Other heart disease	...	...		15	14	1933	...	...	9.7
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...		3	—	1932	...	...	9.5
22	Influenza	...	...		—	—		
23	Pneumonia	...	...		6	6				
24	Bronchitis	...	...		2	—	England and Wales			
25	Other diseases of respiratory system				—	3	1954	...	...	11.3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...			2	—	1953	...	...	11.4
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...			—	—	1952	...	...	11.3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...		1	1	1951	...	...	12.5
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...		2	—	1950	...	...	11.6
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...			—	—	1949	...	...	11.7
31	Congenital malformations	...	...		2	1	1948	...	...	10.8
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				6	4	1947	...	...	12.0
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...		1	—	1946	...	...	11.5
34	All other accidents	...	...		5	2	1945	...	...	11.4
35	Suicide	...	...		—	—	1944	...	...	11.6
36	Homicide and operations of war	...			—	—	1943	...	...	12.1

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a) 1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	243
2.	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	491
(b) 1.	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	102
2.	Number of inspections for the purpose	...	...	...	124
(c) 1.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	*6
2.	Number of dwelling houses (excluding those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	...	*85

* These figures do not include defective or unfit houses discovered during the housing survey, as a separate report will be made on these when the survey is completed.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	53
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3. CLEARANCE AREAS.

(a) 1.	Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	1
2.	Number of unfit houses in 1 (a) above	...	...	...	13
3.	Number of families in 1 (a) above	...	...	...	14
4.	Number of persons in 1 (a) above	...	...	...	51
(b) 1.	Number of Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders made during the year	...	...	...	Nil
2.	Number of houses in clearance areas demolished during the year	...	...	...	Nil
3.	Number of persons rehoused by the Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil

4. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:				
1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	2
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—				
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.				
1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	4

2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	5
(b) By Local Authority in default	... ..	Nil
(c) Proceedings under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 :		
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	1
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	Nil
3. Number of dwelling houses closed in pursuance of Undertaking given by the Owner	... ..	1
4. Number of persons displaced	... ..	6
(d) Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 :		
1. Parts of buildings closed	... ..	1
2. Number of persons displaced	... ..	7
(e) Proceedings under Section 10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :		
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made in lieu of Demolition Orders	... ..	1
2. Number of persons displaced	... ..	2
3. Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made revoking Closing Orders	... ..	2
5. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.—OVERCROWDING		
(a) 1. Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	11
2. Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	18
3. Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	89
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	Nil
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		4
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	39
(d) Particulars of any dwelling houses which have become overcrowded after the L.A. have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... ..	Nil
(e) Any particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the M.O.H. may consider it desirable to report	... ..	Nil
6. NUMBER OF STRUCTURALLY SEPARATE DWELLINGS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :		
1. By the Local Authority	... ..	38
2. By other bodies or persons	... ..	213
		<hr/>
		251
		<hr/>

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

The number of defects found on inspection is followed by the number remedied during the year.

	Cases			Cases	
	Found	Remedied		Found	Remedied
1. <i>Site.</i>					
a. Outbuildings inadequate or in bad repair	—	1			
b. Approach to back of house unsatisfactory	—	1			
c. Storage of refuse unsatisfactory ...	21	27			
d. Animals improperly kept	3	3			
2. <i>Prevention of Dampness.</i>					
a. Roof, chimney, defective	22	26			
b. Gutters, downpipes defective	21	21			
c. Drainage of ground unsatisfactory ...	4	7			
d. Walls, doors, windows, defective ...	30	36			
e. Damp-proof course defective	—	—			
f. Sub-floor ventilation defective	2	3			
g. Solid floor defective	3	3			
h. Soil against walls above d.p.c. ...	—	—			
3. <i>Lighting, Ventilation.</i> (excluding 8 d)					
a. Obstruction to light and air	1	2			
b. Window area or opening below standard	1	2			
c. Ventilation otherwise defective ...	—	—			
d. Artificial lighting defective	—	—			
4. <i>Space Heating.</i>					
a. Firegrate, flue; defective	4	7			
b. Rooms inadequately heated	—	—			
5. <i>Food, Cooking.</i>					
a. Storage of food unsatisfactory ...	—	—			
b. Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory	—	2			
c. Sink, drainage unsatisfactory ...	2	2			
6. <i>Water Supply.</i>					
a. Water supply not satisfactory ...	3	3			
b. Main supply disconnected	1	1			
7. <i>Washing Arrangements.</i>					
a. No bath	—	—			
b. Bath defective ...	1	2			
c. Arrangements for heating water unsatisfactory ...	3	—			
8. <i>Closet Accommodation.</i>					
a. Pail closet defective	—	—			
b. Water closet, soil drains, defective ...	69	69			
c. Approach to outside closet not protected	—	—			
d. Lighting, ventilation, inadequate ...	—	1			
9. <i>Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness.</i>					
a. Internal structures defective	45	43			
b. Decoration in bad state	16	16			
c. Lack of cleanliness	1	1			
d. Infestation with bugs, etc. ...	1	1			

Insanitary Houses.

The first clearance area to be dealt with by the Bushey Urban District Council was declared during the year, and in this case it is intended to purchase the land, either by agreement or by a Compulsory Purchase Order, so that the Council can redevelop the site. The houses to be cleared are Nos. 45-61 and Nos. 65-71 Sparrows Herne, thirteen houses in all.

Two further cases are likely to be dealt with during 1955, while preliminary consideration might be given to other areas as the result of the housing survey recently completed. The closest liaison was maintained between the Public Health and Housing Committees, with the result that two Closing Orders were made in respect of No. 136 Merry Hill Road and No. 3 Meadow Studios, prior to the occupiers being rehoused by the Council, while in a further case, an Undertaking was received from the owner of No. 1 Belle Vue Lane, not to relet the premises until they had been made fit for human habitation. A total number of eight persons were rehoused by the Council as the result of this action.

A Demolition Order was made in respect of No. 169 Sparrows Herne, with the result that it was possible to revoke the Closing Orders made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in respect of the adjoining property, Nos. 165-167 Sparrows Herne, Demolition Orders being substituted.

During the latter part of the year, a survey of existing houses was commenced, to ascertain the number of properties likely to be dealt with under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. The result of the survey will be reported in detail about the middle of 1955, but it should be mentioned that if many of these old properties are to be dealt with, the provision of more accommodation for aged couples and single persons will have to be considered.

Steady progress continued regarding action taken to secure the repair of unfit houses, where such work could be done at a reasonable cost. Fifty-three premises were rendered fit for human habitation as the result of informal action, while seven premises were rendered fit after the service of formal notices.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, became law in August, with the result that seven Certificates of Disrepair were applied for, and up to the end of the year four had been issued, the remainder being issued in 1955. None of the items of disrepair mentioned in these certificates were remedied during the year.

Moveable Dwellings.

There was no material change in the situation during 1954. Three new licences were issued, two on sites previously occupied by caravans, while seventeen licences were renewed.

During the year the Council decided to consider the establishment of a site on the old disused Sewage Works at Eastbury Road. This site is to be fully equipped and to be provided with drainage for each standing. No constructional works were, however, carried out during the year.

In December the County Council appealed to Bushey to assist them by providing a temporary caravan site, so that some of the vans at Bushey Hall could be moved and thus enable the County to build the new school. It was decided, therefore, that part of a hutted camp site which has water supply and drainage should be made available for this purpose, and caravans were moved to this site, as a temporary measure, early in 1955.

Seventy visits were made during the year to camping sites, including nine visits to sites occupied by gypsies. Except in isolated cases, there has been little trouble from gypsy encampments, which have been of a temporary nature.

Water Supply.

No complaints were received during the year regarding the public water supply, which is adequate and chlorinated. Three samples of the water were taken for bacteriological examination, and in each case the bacteriologist reported that the sample was suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

As a result of the housing survey now being carried out, a small number of premises have been found not to have an internal water supply, the occupiers drawing water from standpipes. The action to be taken concerning these houses will be decided upon when the report is considered by the Council in 1955.

SWIMMING POOL

Twelve samples of water from the swimming pool were submitted for bacteriological examination. Except in one case, the bacteriologist reported that the samples were suitable for swimming bath purposes. The sample taken on the 10th August contained an abnormally high number of coliform organisms, but they were not of a faecal type. Investigations carried out revealed that the Bath Attendant had run off some 1,300 gallons of water, and this was replaced by mains water but was not subsequently re-chlorinated. The following day the bath was emptied and refilled.

There is no change in the method of treating the water and daily tests are carried out to ensure that the necessary residual chlorine content is maintained.

Inspection of Food and Food Premises.

The following is a list of food condemned in 1954 :—

Carcase Meat 259lbs., tinned Meat 37lbs., Fish 49lbs., tinned Fish 2lbs., tinned Fruit 132lbs., tinned Vegetables 23lbs., tinned Milk 13lbs., tinned Soup 7lbs., Currants 50lbs., Raisins 10lbs., Cereals 9lbs., Salt 5lbs., Cheese 2lbs., Biscuits 2lbs.

With the exception of 100lbs. of carcase meat, which was returned to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Watford, the condemned food was disposed of by burying on the Council Tip.

During the year a request was received from one of the local schools for an inspection to be made of a quantity of minced steak. This steak, which had been prepared and cooked the day before, was intended for use at the mid-day meal, but it was found to be unfit for human consumption. A sample of the meat was submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, and the bacteriologist reported that cultures yielded a pure growth of *cl. welchii*, which is often associated with food poisoning.

The food had been prepared in a large container, too large to go into the refrigerator, and it had been left in the food store during the night. The incident emphasizes the need for persons in charge of canteens to prepare this type of food the same day as consumption, since quite a serious outbreak of food poisoning might have resulted had the canteen supervisor not referred this incident to the Local Authority.

FOOD PREMISES.

The following is a list of food premises in the district :—

Bakehouses 3, Butchers 8, Cafes and Restaurants 13, Canteens (factory) 14, Canteens (school) 11, Confectioners (other than sweets) 3, Dairies 3, Fish (fried) 2, Fish (wet) 3, Greengrocers 10, Grocers (retail) 25, Grocers (wholesale) 2, Hospitals and Nursing Homes 4, Hotels and Guest Houses 4, Ice cream manufacturers 1, Ice cream retailers 26, Licensed Clubs 3, Public Houses 21.

In addition to the above there are a small number of mobile food traders operating within the district.

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, AND MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 :

	No.	Inspections
Ice cream premises (including 1 manufacturer) ...	26	40
Sausages and cooked meats, etc.	7	12

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 :

Dairies	3	9
----------------	---	---

MEAT SUPPLY.

During the year the slaughterhouses in Watford controlled by the Ministry of Food were returned to private ownership. As most of Bushey's meat supply is obtained through these slaughterhouses, representatives from the Council attended a meeting in Watford with other local Authorities, and members of the meat trade, when it was decided that the slaughtering facilities available to butchers upon decontrol, were sufficient for the area.

As far as Bushey was concerned, one butcher applied for a slaughterhouse licence, but the Council decided that the premises were not suitable and the application was refused. There was no appeal against the refusal.

Milk Supply.

No new premises or distributors were registered during the year, and none were removed from the register. Three premises are registered as dairies, while nine firms or persons are registered as distributors of milk.

Twenty Special Designation Licences were granted during the year as follows :

	Dealers	Supplementary
Sterilised	2	3
Pasteurised	3	4
Tuberculin Tested ...	3	5

Fourteen samples of designated milks were taken for examination, and all satisfied the prescribed tests. During the year a complaint was received of a milk bottle containing dirt on the inside. As this was the third complaint regarding milk supplied by this particular dealer, the Council decided to issue a strong warning.

The only manufacturer of ice crean in this district uses the "Complete Cold Mix" method of production. During the year, four samples were taken from this manufacturer, and it is once again gratifying to report that all four were placed in Grade I. In addition, twenty-seven samples were taken from the various retailers of ice cream in the district, all selling prepacked ice cream. The results were as follows :—

Grade I, 25. Grade II, 2. Grade III, Nil. Grade IV, Nil.

There were no new premises registered during the year, and the number on the register is still twenty-six. Forty inspections were made of these premises which were found to be satisfactory.

OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Fifty-six inspections were made of other food premises which do not require registration. No formal action was necessary to enforce the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act or the Food Byelaws. It was, however, necessary to issue strong warnings in the case of two bakehouses in the district where foriegn bodies had been found in bread baked on the premises.

For the second year in succession, lectures on food hygiene were given to school children of school leaving age. This year, in addition to Bushey Grammar School, lectures were given at Bushey Manor School.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection :	Number of houses disinfected	...	...	...	13
Disinfestation :	Number of houses treated	...	...	...	14

During the year there was only one case of infestation by bed bugs. A number of wasps nests were destroyed but, owing to the prolonged illness of the employee who carries out this work, the Council decided to suspend this service temporarily, although the Department continued to give advice to occupiers as to the best method of dealing with the nests.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The number of premises dealt with is less than the previous year, due to the fact that the Rodent Operator was on sick leave for a period of six months. During his absence, operators were loaned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on five occasions. In this way, complaints were attended to as soon as possible, but no survey work could be carried out.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	20	4,522	40	291	4,873
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. during 1954 as a result	a, 1	87	1	13	102
a, of notification, b, otherwise.	b, 7	80	2	26	115
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Rats	a, .	.	.	.	—
a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	b, 4	79	3	11	97
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice	a, .	.	.	.	—
a, Major b, Minor, Infest.	b, .	11	.	2	13
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	4	90	3	13	110
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment	a, .	.	.	.	.
b, Structural Works	b, .	.	.	.	.

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4; 0.

8. Legal Proceedings, 0.

9. Number of " block control " schemes carried out, 0.

Total number of visits made to premises for all purposes, 909.

RODENT CONTROL IN SEWERS.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries agreed with the Council that the test baiting of sewers during the financial year ending March, 1955, should not be carried out, since test baiting carried out in previous years indicated that the sewers were entirely free from infestation. The next test baiting of sewers is due in September, 1955.

Cesspools, Pail Closets, and Drainage.

New sewers were constructed in Caldecote Gardens during the year, with the result that fifty-three premises were connected to the main drainage system, dispensing with the cesspools. One large establishment, which includes a private school, was also connected to the main drainage system, the private sewage disposal works serving these premises being abandoned. There are now one hundred and fifteen premises drained to cesspools, which are regularly emptied by the Council.

Of the eleven premises in the district from which pail closets were regularly emptied by the Council, only nine are now dealt with, the other two having been converted into chemical closets.

Four hundred and ninety-six inspections were made in connection with new and altered drainage systems, a large number of these inspections being made as a result of the sewerage of Caldecote Gardens. The increase in this work, together with the fact that the employee who carried out routine tests was on sick leave for six months, resulted in the Department being unable to deal with many routine matters in other sections of the work.

Fifty-four obstructed drains were cleared by the Department on behalf of the owners of private property, while two hundred and sixty-eight inspections were made of Council house drainage systems. It is pleasing to report that on only twelve occasions was it necessary to clear obstructed drains to Council houses.

Public Cleansing.

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION.

No change has taken place in the collection by contract of refuse within the district. Two low-loading metal covered vehicles are in use.

(b) REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and no infestation of insect pests was found during the year, while the tip was treated on three occasions for minor infestations of rats.

General

COMPLAINTS AND NOTICES.

During the year one hundred and seventeen complaints were received and the following figures show the number of notices served, and those complied with :—

Informal notices outstanding 1st January, 1954	...	...	...	53
Informal notices served 1954	...	...	...	83
Informal notices complied with 1954	...	...	...	74
Statutory notices outstanding 1st January, 1954	...	...	...	6
Statutory notices served 1954	...	...	...	6
Statutory notices complied with during 1954	...	...	...	7

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

One factory is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act, but no action was taken during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Two premises were licensed under this Act, no violation of the conditions of the licences was found.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	21	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	6	—	—
TOTAL ...	62	29	1	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—	—

Outworkers S.110 (i) (c) : Number, 7. Notices, etc., Nil.

CHORLEYWOOD

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area of District (land and inland water), 2,055 acres.
Highest Point—Near water tower at the Swillet, 410.6ft.
Lowest Point—Junction of Meadow Way and Belfry Lane, 160.3ft.
Number of structurally separate dwellings occupied at 1st April, 1955; 1,712.
Rateable value at 1st April, 1955; £65,547.
Product (estimated) of a penny-rate, £272.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) .

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
4,820	4,648	4,586	4,480	4,680	4,700	3,967	3,775

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
13.3	11.8	10.9	12.5	8.1	12.1	13.1	9.0

(Comparability Factor, 1.11)

Classification of Births :

				Live Births		Still Births	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	32	32	1	—
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	32	31	1	—
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	—	1	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
62.5	36.4	40	0	52	52	19	29

Classification of Deaths :

				Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	3	1	3	1
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	3	1	3	1
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

General Death Rate.

Vide—Summary “Causes of Death.” (Comparability Factor, .78)

Tuberculosis.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year :—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...		2	3	—	—
Deaths	...	...		—	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1954

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...												
1— ...												
3— ...												
5— ...			2	2								
10— ...										2		
15— ...												
25 and over												
TOTAL ...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
							Infective		Post-infectious			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...												
5— ...												
15— ...												
45— ...												
65 and over												
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases		
										M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
0— ...									Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	—
5— ...									Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—
15— ...									Cholera	—	—
45— ...									Malaria	—	—
65 and over									Plague	—	—
									Relapsing Fever	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Typhus Fever...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1954

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Scarlet Fever												
Whooping Cough	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2
paralytic Ac. poliomyelitis ; non-paralytic												
Measles	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia												
Dysentery												
Smallpox												
infective Ac. encephalitis ; post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas												
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning												
Puerperal pyrexia												
Ophthalmia neonat.												
†												

†Cholera Malaria Plague Relapsing F. Typhus F.

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

1954

					Males	Females				
All Causes					14	23	1954	...	...	7.7
							1953	...	...	10.1
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	1952	...	...	11.5
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	1951	...	...	8.5
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	10.0
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	1949	...	...	11.3
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	1948	...	...	9.7
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	1947	...	...	14.0
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	1946	...	...	12.6
8	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	1945	...	...	9.3
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	1944	...	...	11.2
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	—	1	1943	...	...	13.0
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	1	—	1942	...	...	10.7
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	2	1941	...	...	10.3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	1940	...	...	9.7
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	2	2	1939	...	...	9.6
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	1938	...	...	9.9
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	1937	...	...	10.5
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	3	2	1936	...	...	9.7
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	—	—	1935	...	...	7.7
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	1	1934	...	...	10.3
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	—	8	1933	...	...	6.7
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	—	2				
22	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	—	—	
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	—	England and Wales			
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	—	1954	...	...	11.3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	—	1953	...	...	11.4
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	1952	...	...	11.3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	1951	...	...	12.5
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	—	—	1950	...	...	11.6
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	1949	...	...	11.7
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	—	1948	...	...	10.8
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	4	3	1947	...	...	12.0
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	—	—	1946	...	...	11.5
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	2	1945	..	...	11.4
35	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	1944	..	...	11.6
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	1943	...	...	12.1

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...					2
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year :								
(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...					70
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...					62

CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936)

Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year ;
Unfit Houses, nil. Other Houses, nil. Persons displaced, nil.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS	Houses	Persons displaced
1. HOUSING ACT, 1936.		
a. Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under S.11	...	...
b. Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under S.11, and still in force	2	6
c. Parts of buildings closed under S.12	...	...
2. HOUSING ACT, 1949.		
a. Closing Orders made under S.3 (1)	...	...
b. Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under S.3 (2)	...	...
3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.		
Closing Orders made under S.10 (1)	...	...

REPAIRS

INFORMAL ACTION

4. Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the year as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts	33
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
a. by owners	...	...
b. by local authority in default of owners	...	...
6. HOUSING ACT, 1936.		
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Ss. 9, 10, 11 and 16)		
a. by owners	...	...
b. by local authority in default of owners	...	...

NOTE.—A defective house remedied more than once during the period is included once only.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

The number of defects found on inspection is followed by the number remedied during the year.

	Cases Found Remedied			Cases Found Remedied	
1. <i>Site.</i>			5. <i>Food, Cooking.</i>		
a. Outbuildings inadequate or in bad repair ...	—	—	a. Storage of food unsatisfactory ...	3	3
b. Approach to back of house unsatisfactory	2	2	b. Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory	—	—
c. Storage of refuse unsatisfactory ...	19	17	c. Sink, drainage unsatisfactory ...	2	2
d. Animals improperly kept ...	—	—			
2. <i>Prevention of Dampness.</i>			6. <i>Water Supply.</i>		
a. Roof, chimney, defective ...	7	7	a. Water supply not satisfactory ...	—	—
b. Gutter, downpipes, defective ...	3	3	b. Defects in service...	—	—
c. Drainage of ground unsatisfactory ...	1	—	7. <i>Washing Arrangements.</i>		
d. Walls, doors, windows, defective ...	12	11	a. No bath ...	—	—
e. Damp-proof course defective ...	—	—	b. Bath defective ...	—	—
f. Sub-floor ventilation defective ...	—	—	c. Arrangements for heating water unsatisfactory ...	9	8
g. Solid floor defective	1	1			
h. Soil against walls above d.p.c. ...	2	2	8. <i>Closet Accommodation.</i>		
3. <i>Lighting, Ventilation.</i> (excluding 8 d)			a. Pail closet defective ...	—	—
a. Obstruction to light and air ...	—	—	b. Water closet, soil drains, defective ...	11	11
b. Window area or opening below standard ...	—	—	c. Approach to outside closet not protected	—	—
c. Ventilation otherwise defective ...	—	—	d. Lighting, ventilation, inadequate ...	—	—
d. Artificial lighting defective ...	—	—			
4. <i>Space Heating.</i>			9. <i>Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness.</i>		
a. Firegrate, flue; defective ...	9	7	a. Internal structures, defective ...	14	14
b. Rooms inadequately heated ...	—	—	b. Decoration in bad state ...	29	22
			c. Lack of cleanliness	—	—
			d. Infestation with bugs, etc. ...	—	—

Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

Milk Supply.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

During the year twenty-two samples of designated milks, one sample of bottles, and one sample of churn rinsing, were submitted to the Laboratory for examination. Nine samples were found to be unsatisfactory, but after measures had been taken regarding more efficient sterilisation, later samples proved satisfactory.

Three complaints were received regarding dirty milk bottles and a strong warning was issued to the Dairy concerned.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(a) ICE CREAM.

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.
Four premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.
Fourteen inspections were made throughout the year.

(b) FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

Number of Premises on register	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	15

It was not found necessary to serve any notices.

(c) MOBILE FOOD VANS.

Five mobile food vans continue to trade in the District, and all have the name and address of the owner conspicuously displayed on the vehicle.

(d) SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

One private slaughterhouse came into operation again towards the end of the year.

(e) INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Summary of the food condemned at various shop premises and canteens during the year is set out below :

Meat (canned) 2lbs., Bacon 9lbs., Fish 4 tins, Fruit 5 tins, Conserves 3 tins.

Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1)	1	(2)	0	Total	1
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78 complaints were received regarding wasps, and 97 nests were destroyed.

Rodent Control.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	3	1,663	8	131	1,805
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result	a,	35			35
a, of notification, b, otherwise.	b, 3	39	.	11	50
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Rats	a, .				.
a, Major b, Minor, infest.	b, .	30	.	3	33
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by Mice	a, .				.
a, Major b, Minor, infest.	b, .	2	.	2	4
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	.	32	.	5	37
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment	a, .				.
b, Structural Works	b, .	.	.	.	.

Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4 ; 0.

8. Legal Proceedings, 0.

9. Number of " block control " schemes carried out, 0.

SEWER CONTROL.

Treatment was discontinued on instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Public Cleansing.

Direct Labour. Vehicles Employed—Two motor vehicles with sliding metal covers. Disposal by Controlled Tipping. Every effort has been made to maintain a 7-day collection service.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	9	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	16	18	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	24	27	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2	2	—	—	—

Outworkers S.110 (i) (c) :—Number, 2. Notices, etc., Nil.

RICKMANSWORTH

URBAN DISTRICT

General.

Area (land and inland water), 7,639 acres.

Number of separately rated dwellings at 1st April, 1955; 7,801.

Rateable value at 1st April, 1955, £260,623.

Product of a penny-rate, £1,075.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
25,820	25,360	25,180	25,310	24,980	25,000	21,870	19,930

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
12.5	13.2	12.3	13.6	15.8	15.9	15.3	18.8

(Comparability Factor, 1.03)

Classification of Births:

				Live Births.		Still Births.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	155	167	6	1
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	150	160	5	1
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	5	7	1	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
21.7	11.5	6.5	14	25	28	27	32

Classification of Infant Deaths:

				Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	3	2	3	4
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	3	2	3	4
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	—	—	—	—

General Death Rate.

Vide—Summary “ Causes of Death.” (Comparability Factor, 1.11)

Tuberculosis.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year :—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	10	7	—	—
Deaths	...	...	...	1	1	1	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1954

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...									1			
1— ...				1						1		
3— ...			3	5					2			
5— ...	5	2	2	3					1			
10— ...		1										
15— ...	1											
25 and over				1								
TOTAL ...	6	3	5	10	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
							Infective		Post-infectious			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...												
5— ...												
15— ...			1									
45— ...												
65 and over												
TOTAL ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0— ...									Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	—
5— ...									Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—
15— ...									Cholera	—	—
45— ...									Malaria	—	—
65 and over				1					Plague	—	—
									Relapsing Fever	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	Typhus Fever...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES										1954		
MONTH OF OCCURRENCE												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scarlet Fever	.	2	2	3	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Whooping Cough	2	.	.	.	.	2	3	5	1	.	2	.
paralytic Ac. poliomyelitis ; non-paralytic												
Measles	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	1	1
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia												
Dysentery	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Smallpox												
infective Ac. encephalitis ; post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning												
Puerperal pyrexia												
Ophthalmia neonat.												
†												
† Cholera	Malaria	Plague					Relapsing F.		Typhus F.			

THE CAUSES OF DEATH

1954

DEATH-RATE

(Deaths per 1,000 of population)

					Males	Females				
All Causes					114	118	1954	...	...	9.0
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...		1	1	1953	...	...	8.2
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...		1	—	1952	...	...	8.1
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...		—	—	1951	...	...	9.1
4	Diphtheria	...	...		—	—	1950	...	...	8.9
5	Whooping cough	...	...		—	—	1949	...	...	9.3
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...		—	—	1948	...	...	8.5
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...		—	—	1947	...	...	9.9
8	Measles	...	...		—	—	1946	...	...	8.1
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...		—	—	1945	...	...	10.1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...			3	8	1944	...	...	9.8
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				6	3	1943	...	...	10.1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...			—	6	1942	...	...	8.7
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...			—	3	1941	...	...	8.5
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...		16	16	1940	...	...	8.3
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...		1	1	1939	...	...	8.5
16	Diabetes	...	...		1	2	1938	...	...	7.9
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system				13	15	1937	...	...	6.7
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...		28	11	1936	...	...	8.6
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...			—	2	1935	...	...	10.0
20	Other heart disease	...	...		13	16	1934	...	...	9.2
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...		2	6	1933	...	...	11.1
22	Influenza	...	...		—	1				
23	Pneumonia	...	...		1	2				
24	Bronchitis	...	...		1	5	England and Wales			
25	Other diseases of respiratory system				2	4	1954	...	...	11.3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...			2	—	1953	...	...	11.4
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...			—	—	1952	...	...	11.3
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...		—	—	1951	...	...	12.5
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...		3	—	1950	...	...	11.6
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...			—	1	1949	...	...	11.7
31	Congenital malformations	...	...		—	3	1948	...	...	10.8
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				9	8	1947	...	...	12.0
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...		5	2	1946	...	...	11.5
34	All other accidents	...	...		3	2	1945	...	...	11.4
35	Suicide	...	...		3	—	1944	...	...	11.6
36	Homicide and operations of war	...			—	—	1943	...	...	12.1

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year by :—

(a) The Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
(b) Other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	220

CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936)

Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year ;
Unfit Houses, nil. Other Houses, nil. Persons displaced, nil.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS	Houses	Persons displaced
1. HOUSING ACT, 1936.		
a. Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under S.11	22	62
b. Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under S.11, and still in force	3	4
c. Parts of buildings closed under S.12	—	—
2. HOUSING ACT, 1949.		
a. Closing Orders made under S.3 (1)	—	—
b. Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under S.3 (2)	—	—
3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.		
Closing Orders made under S.10 (1)	10	32

REPAIRS

INFORMAL ACTION

4. Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the year as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts	192
--	-----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
a. by owners	4
b. by local authority in default of owners	2
6. HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Ss. 9, 10, 11 and 16)	
a. by owners	2
b. by local authority in default of owners	1

NOTE.—A defective house remedied more than once during the period is included once only.

I.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	337
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	866
(2)		Number of dwelling-houses (included under (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	94
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	62
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	197

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	192
---	-----	-----

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	...
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	...
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...
(3)	Number of Undertakings not to re-let given by owners	...
(4)	Number of Undertakings to repair dwelling-houses given by owners	...
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	4
	(i) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	4
	(ii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	21
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year				1
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year			...	1
	(i) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...		4
(d)	Cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	0
(e)	Number of Council houses found to be overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	1
	(i) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	1
	(ii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	8
(f)	Number of cases of overcrowding in Council houses relieved during the year	...	...	...	9

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

The number of defects found on inspection is followed by the number remedied during the year.

	Cases Found Remedied			Cases Found Remedied	
1. <i>Site.</i>			h. Soil against walls above d.p.c.	1	1
a. Outbuildings inadequate or in bad repair	...	2	2		
b. Approach to back of house unsatisfactory	—	—	3. <i>Lighting, Ventilation.</i>		
c. Storage of refuse unsatisfactory	...	122	120	a. Obstruction to light and air	—
d. Animals improperly kept	...	2	2	b. Window area or opening below standard	2
				c. Ventilation otherwise defective	—
				d. Artificial lighting defective	—
2. <i>Prevention of Dampness.</i>				(see also 8 d)	
a. Roof, chimney, defective	...	13	13	4. <i>Space Heating.</i>	
b. Gutters, downpipes, s-w drains, defective		3	4	a. Firegrate, flue; defective	4
c. Drainage of ground unsatisfactory	...	7	7	b. Rooms inadequately heated	—
d. Walls, doors, windows, defective	...	35	31	5. <i>Food, Cooking.</i>	
e. Damp-proof course defective	...	4	4	a. Storage of food unsatisfactory	3
f. Sub-floor ventilation defective	...	1	1	b. Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory	4
g. Solid floor defective		2	1	c. Sink, drainage, unsatisfactory	2

Cases Found Remedied					Cases Found Remedied				
6. <i>Water Supply.</i>					b. Water closet, soil drains, defective ...				
a. Supply not satisfactory ...	—	—			62	61			
b. Defects in service	15	16			c. Approach to outside closet not protected				
c. Main supply disconnected ...	—	—			—	—			
7. <i>Washing Arrangements.</i>					d. Lighting, ventilation, inadequate ...				
a. No bath ...	—	—			4	5			
b. Bath defective.	—	—			9. <i>Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness.</i>				
c. Arrangements for heating water unsatisfactory ...	—	—			a. Internal structures defective ...				
8. <i>Closet Accommodation.</i>					29	27			
a. Pail closet defective ...	1	1			b. Decoration in bad state ...				
					19	16			
					c. Lack of cleanliness				
					1	1			
					d. Infestation with bugs, etc. ...				
					6	6			

With the coming into force of the Housing Rent and Repairs Act, 1954, Section 1, the survey and re-survey of the older houses in the district was stepped up and ninety-four houses were inspected and recorded. Sixty-two of this number were unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable cost.

The Council continued to allocate a percentage of Council houses to re-housing from sub-standard houses, and in this way, the occupants from twenty-five properties, which had been demolished or closed, were re-housed during the year.

Closing Orders were made in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, but on appeal, the County Court allowed the appeals, and the houses are being repaired at an uneconomic cost to the owner.

The amendment of certain provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, by Section 16 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, resulted in an increased number of applications for Improvement Grants. Eleven applications were received, four were granted and three refused, the remaining applications not progressing past the preliminary stages. This department is responsible for the technical work connected with Improvement Grants.

Moveable Dwellings.

CARAVANS.

The majority of the moveable dwellings in the district are on single sites, and are licensed. There are two licensed sites for fifteen, and three, dwellings respectively ; the total number of dwellings at the end of the year was forty-three. No special problems were encountered.

Water Supply.

The Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company supply the greater part of the area : the Colne Valley Water Company supply a relatively small number of houses in the Eastbury area. A satisfactory sample from each supply was taken during the year.

Three factories and two camping sites have shallow bores, and sixteen samples were taken.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The Ebury Road Open-air Baths are now owned by the Council; the supply is by bore and electric pump. Chlorination apparatus is installed and frequent checks are made by the attendants and by this department.

The Aquadrome, a large artificial lake fed by springs, is privately owned and adequately managed.

Milk Supply.

No. of persons registered as Distributors	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ premises „ „ Dairies	...	...	...	...	7
No. of Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ Licences to use the special designations :—					
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	6
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	4
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	5
No. of Supplementary Licences* to use the special designations :—					
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	8
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	3

Sixteen samples were taken for bacteriological examination and all reached the required standard.

**for Dealers whose premises are outside the District.*

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Food and Food Premises.

TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES, AND NUMBERS.

Bakehouses, 7. Bread and Pastry Purveyors, 11. Butchers, 17. Confectioners (Sweets), 29. Fishmongers, 6. Fish Fryers, 5. Greengrocers, 17. Grocers, 38. Ice Cream Purveyors, 45. Licensed Premises, 33. Milk Purveyors, 4. Restaurants and Canteens, 61.

Two hundred and forty-two inspections of food premises were made. and, generally, the premises and food handling was found to be satisfactory, Eleven informal notices were served during the year ; ten notices were complied with.

SUMMARY OF FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR.

Meat 714lbs., tinned Meat 163lbs., Sausages 122lbs., Fish 112lbs., tinned Fish 7lbs., tinned Soup 5lbs., tinned Milk 47lbs., Cheese 44lbs., tinned Vegetables 91lbs., tinned Fruit 168lbs., dried Fruit 27lbs., Preserves 6lbs., Biscuits 37lbs., Poultry 181lbs. Total 1,724lbs.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

All food was taken to the Council's refuse disposal tip.

SALE OF ICE CREAM.

There are now no manufacturers of ice cream in the district, but forty-five premises were registered for the sale of ice cream. The suppliers are large manufacturers and all samples conformed to Provisional Grade 1 standard.

SHOPS ACTS.

The Census figures for Hertfordshire, published on the 17th June, 1954, disclosed a population in excess of 20,000 and on that day the duties were transferred from the County Council to this Council.

Fifty-three inspections were made, five informal notices served and one complied with.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Number of Licences to keep Pet Shops	3
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1)	17,	(2)	16	Total	33
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78 complaints were received regarding wasps, and appropriate action was taken.

Public Cleansing.

Direct labour scheme. Disposal by controlled tipping. Salvage scheme in operation since April, 1938.

Rodent Control.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Continued co-operation from occupiers of private houses and business premises has been experienced. The use of the anti-coagulent type of poison has greatly assisted in the work of rat destruction, whilst minimising the risk of poisoning domestic animals.

The yearly test-baiting of the Council’s sewers did not show the presence of any rats.

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s’ district 	24	7,801	20	590	8,435
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result	a,	165	4	19	188
a, of notification, b, otherwise	b, 16	129	1	32	178
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	a, 5	9	1	5	20
(a) Major (b) Minor, infest	b, 1	352	3	15	371
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by mice	a,		1		1
(a) Major (b) Minor, infest	b, 1	31		10	42
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	7	392	5	30	434
6. No. of notices served under Section 4 for: a, Treatment	a,				
b, Structural Works	b,				

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4; 0.

8. Number of “ block ” control schemes carried out, 43.

Canal Boats, Inspection of

Number of boats inspected ... 27 Contraventions remedied ... 4

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	79	63	6	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	88	75	6	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	1	1	7	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	4	7	—	—

Outworkers S.110 (i) (c) : Number, 20. Notices, etc., Nil.

WATFORD

RURAL DISTRICT

General.

Area (land and inland water). 18,179 acres.

Civil Parishes—Abbots Langley, 5,558.9; Aldenham, 5,842; Sarratt, 4,587.4; Watford Rural, 2,190.7; acres.

Number of separately rated dwellings at 1st April, 1955; 13,018.

Rateable value at 1st April, 1955; £356,365.

Sum represented by a penny-rate; £1,482.

Population.

(Registrar General's estimates at mid-year) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
48,560	44,800	43,340	40,150	34,160	30,370	20,370	20,280

Birth-Rate.

(Live births per 1,000 of population) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
15.6	16.2	16.5	17.0	15.4	15.1	17.2	13.9

(Comparability Factor, .93)

Classification of Births :

				Live Births		Still Births	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	390	367	5	6
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	377	353	4	6
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	13	14	1	—

Infantile Mortality Rate.

(Number of deaths under age of 1 year per 1,000 live births) :

1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1945	1939
22.4	24.8	9.8	29	15	24	26	56

Classification of Deaths :

				Under Age of 4 weeks		Under Age of 1 year	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	...	6	5	8	9
<i>Legitimate</i>	...	...	...	6	4	8	8
<i>Illegitimate</i>	...	...	...	—	1	—	1

General Death Rate.

Vide—Summary "Causes of Death."

(Comparability Factor, 1.27)

Tuberculosis.

The following notifications and deaths were recorded during the year :—

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
New cases	...	...	...	23	26	2	1
Deaths	...	...	...	9	1	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1954

INCIDENCE according to AGE and SEX

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles (Exc. Rubella)		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...			1									
1— ...	2	3	15	17					2	3		
3— ...	1	5	32	24					4	2		
5— ...	23	21	24	31					5	2		
10— ...		3	2	1								
15— ...	1	1					1					
25 and over	1	1					1					
TOTAL ...	28	34	74	73	—	—	2	—	11	7	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Ac. Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
							Infective		Post-infectious			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— ...												
5— ...	1	2										
15— ...	3	3		1								
45— ...	1			1								
65 and over	2											
TOTAL ...	7	5	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGE GROUPS	Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Meningococcal infection		Food Poisoning		Other Notifiable Diseases		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0— ...									Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	—
5— ...							5		Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—
15— ...			1					1	Cholera	—	—
45— ...				1			1		Malaria	—	—
65 and over									Plague	—	—
									Relapsing Fever	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	1	Typhus Fever...	—	—

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
1954

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE

12
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

Scarlet Fever	5	10	16	8	1	1	1	.	7	2	7	4
Whooping Cough	28	19	27	21	14	3	11	4	3	4	6	7
paralytic Ac. poliomyelitis ;												
non-paralytic	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Measles	1	.	.	.	.	1	3	4	2	.	1	6
Diphtheria												
Ac. pneumonia	7	2	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.
Dysentery	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	4
Smallpox												
infective Ac. encephalitis ;												
post-infectious												
Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid fevers												
Erysipelas	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
Meningococcal infn.												
Food poisoning	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	3	1
Puerperal pyrexia												
Ophthalmia neonat.												
†												

† Cholera
Malaria
Plague
Relapsing F.
Typhus F.

THE CAUSES OF DEATH						DEATH-RATE			
						(Deaths per 1,000 of population)			
1954									

SANITARY CONDITIONS

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts 376

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation —

Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding section) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 109

Number of structurally separate dwellings erected during the year:

(1) By the Local Authority 106

(2) By other bodies or persons 916

CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act, 1936)

Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year ;
Unfit Houses, nil. Other Houses, nil. Persons displaced, nil.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS.	Houses	Persons displaced
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1. HOUSING ACT, 1936.

a. Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under S.11	7	6
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b. Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under S.11, and still in force	13	30
--	----	----

c. Parts of buildings closed under S.12	—	—
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2. HOUSING ACT, 1949.

a. Closing Orders made under S.3 (1)	—	—
---	---	---

b. Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under S.3 (2)	—	—
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3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953.

Closing Orders made under S.10 (1)	—	—
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REPAIRS

INFORMAL ACTION

4. Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the year as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts 98

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

a. by owners	—	—
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b. by local authority in default of owners	—	—
---	---	---

6. HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Ss. 9, 10, 11 and 16)

a. by owners	—	—
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b. by local authority in default of owners	—	—
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NOTE.—A defective house remedied more than once during the period is included once only.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING DEFECTS.

The number of defects found on inspection is followed by the number remedied during the year.

	Cases Found Remedied			Cases Found Remedied	
1. <i>Site.</i>			5. <i>Food, Cooking.</i>		
a. Outbuildings inadequate or in bad repair	—	—	a. Storage of food unsatisfactory ...	1	1
b. Approach to back of house unsatisfactory	—	—	b. Cooking arrangements unsatisfactory	—	—
c. Storage of refuse unsatisfactory ...	46	46	c. Sink, drainage unsatisfactory ...	3	2
d. Animals improperly kept	1	1	6. <i>Water Supply.</i>		
2. <i>Prevention of Dampness.</i>			a. Well not satisfactory	1	1
a. Roof, chimney, defective	12	10	b. Water delivered in vessels	—	—
b. Gutters, downpipes, s-w drains, defective	11	7	c. Main supply disconnected	—	—
c. Drainage of ground unsatisfactory ...	4	3	7. <i>Washing Arrangements.</i>		
d. Walls, doors, windows, defective ...	9	7	a. No bath	—	—
e. Damp-proof course defective ...	2	1	b. Bath defective.	—	—
f. Sub-floor ventilation defective ...	2	2	c. Arrangements for heating water unsatisfactory ...	—	—
g. Solid floor defective	2	2	8. <i>Closet Accommodation.</i>		
h. Soil against walls above d.p.c. ...	2	2	a. Pail closet defective	3	3
3. <i>Lighting, Ventilation.</i>			b. Water closet, soil drains, defective ...	51	38
a. Obstruction to light and air	—	—	c. Approach to outside closet not protected	—	—
b. Window area or opening below standard	—	—	d. Lighting, ventilation, inadequate ...	1	1
c. Ventilation otherwise defective ...	—	—	9. <i>Repair, Decoration, Cleanliness.</i>		
d. Artificial lighting defective	—	—	a. Internal structures, defective ...	8	6
(see also 8 d)			b. Decoration in bad state	1	1
4. <i>Space Heating.</i>			c. Lack of cleanliness	—	—
a. Firegrate, flue; defective	4	4	d. Infestation with bugs, etc. ...	7	7
b. Rooms inadequately heated	—	—			

Water Supply.

The water supply of the District is adequate and chlorinated.

Milk Supply.

(a) Designated milks						<i>Retailers</i>
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	17
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	16
Sterilized	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of inspections	...	12		Notices	...	0

ICE-CREAM.

Number of premises registered :—

(a) for Manufacture...	...	0	(b) for Sale	...	52
Number of inspections	...	41	Notices	...	0

During the year 27 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows :—

Grade I, 23. Grade II, 1. Grade III, 3. Grade IV, 0.

Meat and Other Foods.

The following is a summary of Food condemned during the year :—

Carcase Meat 622lbs., canned Meat 194lbs., cooked Ham 11lbs., Sausages 63lbs., Fish 84lbs., canned Fish 10lbs., Cheese 63lbs., canned Milk and Cream 58 cans, canned Vegetables 236lbs., Fruit 60lbs., canned Fruit 262lbs., canned Preserves 14lbs., Miscellaneous 2lbs.

Number of Food Premises inspected, 129 ; Contraventions, 5.

Disinfection (1), Disinfestation (2).

Number of cases	(1)	78.	(2)	7	Total	85
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Public Cleansing.

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION—The service is carried out by direct labour throughout the district. During the post war years there has been a considerable expansion in this service on account of the extensive housing development in the Council's area. Twelve vehicles are now employed, namely:—three 12 cu. yd. Double Cab; two 10 cu. yd. Double Cab; and six 10 cu. yd. Single Cab; in full use. In addition, one 10 cu. yd. Single Cab acts as a relief.

The development taking place on the new L.C.C. Housing Estate at Boreham Wood necessitates a further increase in the number of vehicles and staff to cope with the considerable additional work involved.

It has been the aim to maintain a weekly collection service, but difficulties have been experienced from time to time owing to absence of the regular staff on account of sickness, and it has not been possible to engage men in a temporary capacity to take the place of those absent. Generally, labour for this type of work is becoming more difficult to obtain and keep.

As from the 1st July, 1954, a Trade Refuse Collection Scheme was put into operation, a charge being made for the removal of trade refuse from shop premises. The scale of fees in force provides for no charge in respect of the first dustbin, 30/- per year for the second bin, 20/- for the third, and 15/- for the fourth and subsequent bins.

(b) REFUSE DISPOSAL—With the expansion of the refuse collection service, there has been a considerable increase in the amount of refuse collected, and additional land has had to be taken over at the two refuse disposal sites at Abbots Langley and Aldenham. Controlled tipping is being carried out at Abbots Langley with the assistance of mechanical equipment. The disposal site at Aldenham has been improved by the use of the additional land which has been made available.

(c) CESSPOOL EMPTYING—The emptying of cesspools is undertaken by the Council, and the scheme covers the whole of the district. Cesspools are emptied at the request of owners or occupiers without charge, but the Council reserve the right to review this arrangement at any time and to impose a scale of charges in specific cases, or generally, should they consider it necessary or desirable.

An 800 gallon Cesspool Emptying Vehicle, operated by two men, is in use. In addition, it is necessary to employ the services of a contractor who uses modern type emptying vehicles. The improved efficiency of the service was maintained during the year, and as a result, the number of emptyings has increased.

The Council has under consideration the question of the laying of sewers in the more developed areas of the district, and this action would result in the abolition of a number of cesspools and the connection of the premises to a main drainage system.

The disposal of cesspool contents is as far as possible into sewers in the area, otherwise by discharge on to suitable land.

WORKING STATISTICS (January—December).

Total number of Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	452
Total number of emptyings of above Cesspools	...	...	...	...	1,599
Total number of loads removed	...	...	...	...	3,243
Number of gallons removed at 800 gallons per load	...	...	...	...	2,594,400

(d) PAIL CLOSET EMPTYING—This is undertaken by direct labour in the Parishes of Abbots Langley, Aldenham, and Sarratt. Pail closets are emptied weekly.

(e) PUBLIC CONVENIENCES—During the year Public Conveniences were erected and made available to the public at Watling Street, Radlett, and at Station Approach, South Oxhey.

The maintenance and supervision of both Conveniences is carried out by the Public Health Department.

Rodent Control.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

	Local Authority Depots, etc.	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural	All other, incl. Business & Industry	Total
1. Total No. of properties in L.A.s' district	14	11,730	147	732	12,623
2. No. of properties inspected by L.A. as a result of	a, .	115	3	7	125
a, notification, b, otherwise	b, 6	440	18	60	524
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	a, 3	.	.	.	3
(a) Major (b) Minor, Infest.,	b, 1	149	1	3	154
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice ... ..	.	.	.	2	2
5. No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the L.A. ...	4	155	.	3	162
6. No. of notices served under S.4 for a, Treatment	a, .	.	.	.	.
b, Structural Work	b, .	.	.	.	.

7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of notice under S. 4; 0.

8. Legal Proceedings, 0.

9. Number of "block control" schemes carried out, 5.

As previous annual test-baiting of the Council's sewers resulted in "no takes", exemption from this test was granted for the year.

Canal Boats, Inspection of

Number of boats inspected ... 4

Contraventions ... 0

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Number of licences to keep Pet Shops, 3.

Number of premises inspected, 3 ; Contraventions, 0.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1.—Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	22	—	—
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	44	24	—	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	3	—	1	—

Outworkers S.110 (i) (c)—Number, 71; Notices, etc., Nil.

